

13. (New) A hygiene article comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising an antimicrobial polymer prepared by the process as claimed in claim 1.

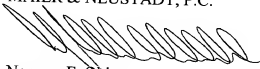
14. (New) A surface coating, protective paint or other coating comprising an antimicrobial polymer prepared by the process as claimed in claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-14 are active in the present application. Claims 7-10 have been canceled. Claims 1-4 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial polymer, said process comprising [polymers which comprises]

polymerizing one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers [which have been] at least singly functionalized by means of a secondary amino group.

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers are functionalized by means of a secondary amino group [and having the general] of formula



where R^1 is a branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having up to 50 carbon atoms which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms, and

R^2 is a branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having up to 25 carbon atoms, which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms[, are used].

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the polymerization is carried out on a substrate

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the polymerization is carried out as a graft polymerization of a substrate.

Claims 7-10 (Canceled).

Claims 11-14 (New).--

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